

**CONFIDENTIAL****ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET**

SUBJECT: (Optional)

APEX - 4C

FROM:

Chief, Policy and Plans Group *RJW*  
Office of Security  
4E-60, Hdqs.

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

19 NOV 1980

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1. Office of the Comptroller  
Attn:   
4E-20, Hdqs.

Attached are four copies of the APEX 4C description as requested in Attachment C of the Office of the Comptroller memorandum regarding the FY 1982 Congressional Budget Justification Book.

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**WARNING NOTICE**  
INTELLIGENCE SOURCES  
AND METHODS INVOLVED

**CONFIDENTIAL**

TOP SECRET

Approved For Release 2004/05/05 : CIA-RDP85T00788R000100080002-4

Question 8: What are the CIA plans regarding the APEX security system?

Response: Based on a decision made by the DCI, the Acting Director of Central Intelligence requested on 12 March 1981 that the President withdraw the directive approving the establishment of the APEX Control System. Over the past year, costs and difficulties in moving from the existing Sensitive Compartmented Information (SCI) systems to APEX became increasingly visible. The Acting Director, nevertheless, requested confirmation of authority established in the Presidential Directive on APEX to set uniform security standards to govern access to, protection of, and dissemination of SCI in order to proceed with beneficial and cost effective modification to existing SCI systems. ☐

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Although the APEX Control System will no longer be pursued, development of the Central Access Registry (4C System) will continue. The 4C System was conceived in the early 1970s for use with existing SCI programs. It will enable Security Officers throughout the Community to quickly determine the security clearances and access of individuals. The need for and usefulness of the 4C System with established SCI control systems is not diminished by withdrawal of support for APEX. ☐

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6-27

COUNTERINTELLIGENCE, SECURITY AND OPSEC

Question 15: The 4C computer system for checking people's security clearance was designed to work with the new APEX security procedures.

Do you still intend to implement APEX as it was originally promulgated?

If not, is it possible to reduce the cost of 4C?

Response: We do not now envisage implementation of APEX as initially planned.

On 12 March the Acting Director of Central Intelligence requested that the President withdraw the directive approving the establishment of the APEX Control System. Over the past year, costs and difficulties in moving from the existing Sensitive Compartmented Information (SCI) systems to APEX became increasingly visible, and community support for the new system evaporated. The Acting Director, nevertheless, requested confirmation of authority established in the Presidential Directive on APEX to set uniform security standards to govern access to, protection of, and dissemination of SCI in order to proceed with beneficial and cost effective modifications to existing SCI systems.

The 4C System concept predated APEX by a number of years. While it was adapted to and given impetus by APEX, withdrawal of support for the latter does not reduce the need for or usefulness of the 4C System with respect to established SCI control systems. Further, modifying the 4C system as originally conceived for APEX did not increase the cost, nor will the cost be reduced now that APEX will no longer be pursued.

As an aside, release of the requested \$800,000, in addition to the \$3 million already authorized for the 4C System in FY 1981, continues